

Appln No. 09/693514
Amdt. Dated: December 22, 2006
Response to Office Action of October 18, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated October 18, 2006.

Specification

Pages 1 and 2 of the specification have been amended. The paragraphs entitled "Co-Pending Applications" have been replaced by new paragraphs entitled "Co-Pending Applications" merely to replace the US applications numbers with their corresponding granted US patent numbers. The Applicant submits these amendments introduce no new matter.

Amendments

Claims 1, 19 and 37 have been amended to further distinguish the present invention from the printer described in the newly cited document Mori.

Basis for the amendments to these claims can be found at page 9, line 4; page 11, lines 22-28; and page 17, lines 27-31

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

The Applicant contests the Examiner's assertion that the present invention is obvious from the combined disclosures of Mori and Dymetman.

Mori describes a printer which prints identification barcodes onto documents. Mori's printers also contains a barcode scanner, which enables users to re-print a document simply by scanning the identification barcode – the document identity is used to retrieve the document file from a computer system, thereby enabling the printer to print a duplicate document.

As shown in Figure 2, Mori's barcode scanner 1a may be fixed to the printer, with the scanner being positioned in a corner slit.

As shown in Figure 3, Mori's barcode scanner 11a may be positioned in a media feed tray *upstream* of a printhead.

As shown in Figures 4, Mori's barcode scanner 12a may be positioned on a sidewall of the printer.

As shown in Figures 5 to 11, Mori's barcode scanner may be a separate device from the printer, either a slit-type barcode reader (Figure 5), a pen-type barcode reader 28a (Figure 7), or a handheld barcode scanner 30 (Figure 8). The barcode scanner may communicate with the printer via wiring or via wireless communication (Figures 9 and 11).

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However, in contrast to the present invention, Mori does not position his scanner adjacent a print media path *downstream* of the printhead. Moreover, Mori's scanner is not configured to *automatically* read each barcode. Such an arrangement would be nonsensical for Mori, because Mori is concerned with providing a user with the option of re-prints. If Mori were to adopt the arrangement specified in claim 1 of the present application, he would end up continuously re-printing each document, because each barcode gets automatically scanned, thereby initiating a subsequent re-print. Such an arrangement is obviously nonsensical.

In contrast to Mori's printer, the present invention requires each identity code to be scanned automatically by the sensor so that an association between printed document information and a document identity can be made by a computer system. The skilled person reading Mori has no reason to modify Mori's printer in the manner defined by claim 1, because it would be in complete contradiction to the teaching of Mori, as already explained above.

Moreover, Dymetman provides the skilled person with no suggestion to modify Mori's printer in accordance with the present invention. Dymetman merely teaches the desirability of documents printed with identity codes, but makes no suggestion to the skilled person as to how he can generate such documents. Dymetman's optical sensor is plainly not used for associating document identities with document information and the skilled person would find it nonsensical to affix Dymetman's optical to a printer in the manner specified by claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious in view of the combination of Mori and Dymetman.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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